

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Examiner: Daniel Lawson Greene

Group Art Unit: 3694

In re Application of:  
Kirkland D. Broach et al.

Serial No. 10/751,349

Filed: January 5, 2004

NUCLEAR FUEL ASSEMBLY DEBRIS  
FILTER BOTTOM NOZZLE

Attorney Docket No. ARF-2004-003

**AMENDED BRIEF**

March 19, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed March 8, 2007, please accept the attached Amended Brief which addresses each of the Examiner's points. Note that with regard to Item 4, Applicant's representative has reviewed the specification and the cited pages and line numbers support the claim limitations as stated. In this regard, the Examiner asserted that page 9, line 1 does not define Claim 13 having double chamfered inlet 56.

Applicant's representative respectfully takes issue with this conclusion. Page 9 line 1 specifically defines the chamfers and introduces the specific values by angle and nominal length, which are set forth in the following table starting at Line 7. Additionally, with regard to the Examiner's comment that the two different lower nozzle hole designs are 52 and "48", NOT Item "54", please note that the Reference Character 48 describes generally the flow through holes of any design, while

Reference Character 54 defines flow through holes of the venturi design. Therefore, the use of Reference Character 54 to describe the flow through holes of this invention is entirely proper.

Applicant's representative has made a number of changes of Reference Character 54 to 48 to satisfy the Examiner, though it's not believed to be necessary. It is respectfully believed that all of the remaining points made by the Examiner have been complied with.

It would be appreciated if the attached Amended Brief was given favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel C. Abeles", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel C. Abeles  
Registration No. 25,822  
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
600 Grant Street, 44th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Attorney for Applicant  
(412) 566-1295